



National Sporting Library & Museum

NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

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“What’s Next?” A Preview of 2014 at the NSLM

During the inaugural exhibition at the new Museum, *Afield in America: 400 Years of Animal & Sporting Art*, one of the most commonly asked questions was, “What’s next?” This became an incredibly intimidating question with the mounting success of the show. How does one top a landmark exhibition? The answer in theory is quite simple, but in reality was a Herculean feat – to organize another blockbuster exhibit. The magnum opus *Munnings: Out in the Open* brought record attendance to the NSLM, national and international attention and fine art reviews in the *Wall Street Journal* and

Virginia Living, among others.

The gaining momentum of the Museum brought a broader interest to the institution and with it, some concern that the world-class Library and its holdings, exhibits and programs would be overshadowed and irrevocably changed. Looking back on the year of 2013, however, bears witness to the adage that the whole is in fact greater than the sum of its parts. There is an immense sense of accomplishment in knowing that the year brought increased visitation and membership not only because of the Munnings exhibit, but because of the continued, rich and diverse programming that both the Library and

Museum presented throughout the entire year. Members had access to eight exhibitions, twenty-three lectures and talks, six book signings, two major fundraisers, four open houses, two exclusive member events for the Ivy Circle, the annual duplicate book sale, over 60 private and public rare books and exhibit tours, Sunday Sketch and a symposium, all within twelve months.

As this calendar year wanes, the question echoes, “What’s next?” 2014 will be a time to celebrate the rich heritage of this growing institution. With the sixtieth anniversary of the establishing of both the NSLM and the Virginia Fall Races in 1954, we are reminded of founders like George L. Ohrstrom, Sr. and Alexander Mackay-Smith who were invested in preserving the culture we are a part of today.

Another local institution - the Foxcroft School - will mark its one-hundred-year anniversary, and in conjunction with the prestigious girls’ boarding school’s festivities, the NSLM will open *Foxcroft School: The Art of Women and the Sporting Life* during women’s history month in March. Loans will be drawn entirely from alumni and aim to

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Save the Date: Side Saddle Symposium

Professor Alison L. Goodrum, Manchester, England, a 2010-2011 John H. Daniels Fellow, is returning to Middleburg on March 15, 2014, to participate in the Side Saddle Symposium organized by the National Sporting Library & Museum. Goodrum also is acting as consulting Fellow to the Side Saddle Exhibition that will hang in the Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall of the Library. The exhibition will run from March 8 – August 1, 2014. A specialty niche among equestrian enthusiasts, side saddle riding holds a fascination for non-riders as well.



Franklin Brooke Voss (American, 1880 – 1953)
Portrait of Mrs. William C. Langley, Aside on Sandown, 1921
National Sporting Library & Museum
Gift of Mrs. Eleanor Langley Fletcher

The symposium will be moderated by Lorian Peralta-Ramos and feature presentations by leading practitioners Shelly Liggett, history; Jeannie Whited, attire; Devon Zebrovius, riding; and Mark Thompson, judging. Professor Alison L. Goodrum will speak about her research.

Registration information will be available February 15, 2014. www.nsl.org

New Hours Begin January 2, 2014

*Both the Library &
Museum will be open
the same days and times.*

**Wednesday - Saturday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

“What’s Next?”

continued from page 1

develop a picture of woman sporting enthusiasts and artists throughout the twentieth century. Additionally in the spring a side saddle exhibition in the Library’s Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall in conjunction with a symposium will explore the history, attire and technique of riding aside. Rounding out this focus on women will be a major Museum showing of Clarice Smith’s equestrian paintings; many drawn from her personal collection offer an intimate view of this engaging and dynamic artist.

In the fall the NSLM will introduce the “Coming Home” series, an annual opportunity for prospective John H. Daniels Fellows to research topics from which exhibitions will be developed. Two exhibits in tandem in 2013 will draw on 2012 Daniels Fellow Martha Wolfe’s research of the Library’s archive of Harry Worcester Smith (1865 – 1945). Her work will shed light on the integral role his research played in bringing important early American equestrian artist Edward Troye to the fore. The varied material in the archive will be presented in the Library’s Forrest E. Mars Exhibit Hall. The Museum’s historic Vine Hill galleries will feature original paintings catalogued by the afore-mentioned founder, sportsman and scholar Alexander Mackay-Smith in his *The Race Horses of America, 1832-1872: Portraits and other Paintings by Edward Troye*, a 1981 book built on Worcester-Smith’s work. The “Coming Home” series will aim to develop the field of sporting art research and bridge the resulting material with fine art exhibitions installed in the wing of the Museum which was once home to the Library for almost thirty years.

The Library will, of course, continue as it has, supporting in-depth research of the full gamut of turf and field sport topics, presenting book signings, developing rare-book exhibitions and giving voice to the scholastic community with a forum for intellectual exchange. It is, however, this new element of combined programming that has been made possible by the addition of the fine art Museum; we are no longer the NSL, but the NSLM, not different, but instead more deeply engaged in fulfilling the mission of preserving, sharing and promoting the literature, art and culture of equestrian, angling and field sports.

—Librarian Lisa Campbell and George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Curator Claudia Pfeiffer

Acquisition Highlights

The NSLM would like to extend its sincere thanks for the following recent donations to the permanent collection.

John Ferneley, Sr.
(British, 1781 – 1860)
The Hunt in Belvoir Vale,
c. 1835
oil on canvas,
48 x 133 inches
Gift of Kathryn James Clark in memory of Stephen C. Clark, Jr., 2013



Benjamin Marshall
(British, 1768 – 1835)
Mr. Thomas Willan of Marylebone Park and Twyford Abbey, 1818
oil on canvas, 34 x 40 inches
Gift of Kathryn James Clark in memory of Stephen C. Clark, Jr., 2013

Ben Marshall (English, 1768-1835)
Fighting Cocks, c. 1812
oil on canvas
24 1/2 x 29 1/2 inches
Gift of Jacqueline Ohrstrom,
from the bequest of George L.
Ohrstrom, Jr., 2013



Samuel Alken, Jr.
(British, 1784 – c. 1825)
Tally Ho, 1816
oil on canvas
38 x 48 inches
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Timothy
Greenan, 2013

J. Clayton Bright
(American, born 1946)
Red Fox (Vulpes Fulva), 1990
bronze
13 1/2 x 30 3/4 inches
Anonymous Gift, 2013



Russian School (20th Century)
Mare and Foal, c. 1970
cast iron; black patina on a dark
green marble base
11 3/4 x 14 1/2 inches
Anonymous Gift, 2013

“Perspectives on Teaming with Nature” Presents Rich and Varied Insights

On Saturday, November 16, 2013, the National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) symposium, “Perspectives on Teaming with Nature,” provided a vibrant, informative experience for seventy participants. Building on the long tradition of viewing nature as both resource and partner among people who engage in equestrian, angling and field sports, the symposium highlighted leaders in the fields of art, science and public policy who creatively engage with the natural world. Ideas and experiences ranged from global to local. Presentations, questions from the audience and opportunities for conversation left attendees stimulated and energized. Eighteen new memberships in the NSLM were generated.

President and CEO of Openlands, Chicago, Illinois, and Chairman of the Center for Humans and Nature, historic preservationist and conservationist Gerald Adelmann, set the tone with “Minding Nature: Expanding our Moral and Civic Imagination.” Adelmann stressed that the connection between people and land is always central to our experience. Since nature is vital to everyone, it is important to build partnerships and to ask questions for a resilient future. He gave several examples of original and creative programs developed over the fifty year history of Openlands. Pointing out that urgency in local issues means little time for looking at the “long view,” Adelmann talked about the creation of the Center for Humans and Nature which works to “link real life issues in real life places” to broader issues and “foster a culture that puts ethical thinking at the core of decision making.”

University Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University, scientist Thomas Lovejoy, originator of the term “biodiversity,” has had major impact on public policy. His talk addressed pressures on the natural world in the 21st century and gave examples of creative and imaginative ways in which there can be “Conservation Solutions in an Increasingly Crowded World.” Lovejoy stressed the importance of thinking about services the natural world provides, including the hidden benefits of biodiversity in discoveries by life sciences and medical sciences. He also suggested there might be a widespread ecosystem restoration project to re-green the planet with everyone planting a tree – much in the spirit of the Victory Gardens of WWII.

The power of creative thinking and rigorous scholarship was personified by

Eleanor Jones Harvey, senior curator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, who spoke about “Landscape as Metaphor in the Civil War.” Her research for the book and exhibit *The Civil War and American Art* has reevaluated the role of 19th century landscape painters, previously thought to have ignored the war. Harvey demonstrated that landscape painting played a central role in understanding and processing the cataclysmic event by building on the 19th century “habit of mind” that saw landscape as allegory. Deftly linking naturalist Alexander von Humboldt to the discov-

their mode of travel, study and illustration, Prosek has both honored and challenged that tradition with exquisite insight and creative power.

The afternoon looked at how people can “team with nature” personally and within their communities. There was an opportunity for conversation with James Prosek in his exhibit, *Teaming with Nature* and Robin Hill and Meg Page in their exhibit called *Contemporary Artist-Naturalists*. Attention then focused on museum educator and interpretive consultant Lisa Roberts (“The Art of Nature”) who spoke about “issue fatigue” and the need to change the conversation from overwhelming problems facing the planet to ways in which people can have meaningful experiences that connect them to nature. She provid-



Speakers Gerald Adelmann, Thomas Lovejoy, Eleanor Jones Harvey, Perry Mathewes, Lisa Roberts, James Prosek

ery that “landscape is the glue that holds all of human and biotic nature together,” Harvey showed his influence on painter Frederic Church and on architect of the Louisiana Purchase Thomas Jefferson. A series of paintings interwoven with poems, literature, press coverage of the Civil War and natural phenomena such as the Aurora Borealis were presented to show the power of landscape metaphor within a torn and grieving society. The potential of landscape as redemption was demonstrated with the 1864 signing by President Abraham Lincoln of legislation protecting Yosemite as the first federally designated park.

Artist, writer and naturalist James Prosek showed that central to his work is the question of what is the difference between the named world we label to communicate and the unnamed world we experience but can't quite explain. The writer of several illustrated books including two about trout, Prosek traced the evolution of his inquiry which is leading to another book to be called *The Beauty and the Failure of Names*. Influenced at an early age by 19th century artist-naturalists and working within

ed richly illustrated examples of street art, installations, art collectives and site-specific interpretive plans (to name a few) that use art to communicate science. Several attendees commented that they were “stimulated and inspired” by the ideas. Horticultural specialist Perry Mathewes’ topic “Bringing Nature Home” was of special interest to gardeners as he traced the journey native plants made into our gardens through the efforts of naturalist-collectors such as John Banister, John Lawson and Mark Catesby.

Participant evaluations included comments such as, “The symposium, the quality of the speakers and the creativity of NSLM for pulling off a convergence of these people and topics truly amazed me.” Another stated, “I enthusiastically applaud the very impressive and kaleidoscopic views that presented nature and art. The speakers were engaging, knowledgeable and so creative in their interpretations of subjects we thought we knew and now know from uniquely new perspectives.”

—Director of Communications
and Education Mickey Gustafson



Directors of the National Sporting Library & Museum

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NSLM Board Welcomes New Member

Cathy M. Brentzel was born in Pennsylvania. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, before obtaining a Juris Doctorate from Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C. Cathy is well known for her philanthropic work throughout the Washington Metropolitan area, including having served as chair for the Refugees International 2010 Gala and being a patron of The Washington Ballet's annual Nutcracker production. She currently serves as a member of the board of directors for The Beauvoir School, The Washington Ballet, the Lean & Hungry Theatre, and now the National Sporting Library & Museum. Cathy and her daughter, Catherine, split their time between residences in Washington, D.C. and Middleburg. They are both enthusiastic foxhunters and enjoy outdoor sporting activities.



Cathy M. Brentzel

Rare Book School Director Addresses Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council

Michael Suarez, S.J., director of Rare Book School at University of Virginia, gave an outstanding lecture for the Treasures from the Rare Book Room series on November 7, 2013. Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars sponsored the annual lecture and dinner for Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council members.

Suarez studied at Oxford as a Marshall Scholar, and earned four master's degrees as well as a doctorate. Before coming to UVA, he had a transatlantic appointment, teaching at Oxford and at Fordham University in New York, where he was the J. A. Kavanaugh Professor of English Literature.

Suarez, who previously lectured for the group in 2010, spoke with enthusiasm on the synergies between the Library's book and manuscript collection and Museum's paintings and sculpture, all of which contribute to the understanding of the world and history of sport.

Soon the plans for the 2014 Treasures from the Rare Book Room will be announced and we hope you can join us.



Michael Suarez



National Sporting Library & Museum/ Chronicle Cup winner On The Corner (Mark Beecher, up) in the Winners Circle with trainer Alicia Murphy on far right.

Reception in honor of the bequest of two important 19th century paintings to the NSLM from Kathryn James (Kats) Clark in memory of Stephen G. Clark, Jr. on October 3, 2013.
Sponsored by Doyle New York.



Kristen Rohde, Shani Toledano, Shamira Farmer, Reid Dunavant, Peter Costanzo



Patti Thomas



Joe Fargis



Angling in the Western World preview, September 27, 2013



Spencer, Barbara and Wesley Price, *Angling in the Western World* preview



Artists Robin Hill, Meg Page and Claudia Pfeiffer, NSLM curator, at Reception and Open House, October 17, 2013



NSLM Librarian Lisa Campbell, Alastair Jackson, director of the UK's Masters of Foxhounds Association, at his book signing October 22, 2013



Robert Ferrer, MFH, Caroline Hunt; Mrs. Sherman Haight; Alastair Jackson, director of the UK's Masters of Foxhounds Association; Elizabeth Ferrer, Sherman Haight



October 30, 2013, book signing by Phillip Dutton pictured with Evie Dutton and Paul Cronin

"Perspectives on Teaming with Nature" Symposium, November 16, 2013



Tom Lovejoy, Jocelyn Sladen



Missy Janes, James Prosek, Anne Rowley, Victoria Stack



Mickey Gustafson, Jerry Adelman, Bonnie Cullen

Researching *The Crowning Point of All: The Great Hound Match of 1905*

by Martha Wolfe

Much has been written about The Great Hound Match of 1905, the contest between American and English hounds, which took place in and around Middleburg. That November, when the Piedmont was still deeply depressed from the Civil War and the industrial North was thriving, Yankee foxhunters discovered the wide Piedmont Valley. It began with a spitting match in the pages of *Rider and Driver* late in 1904 when Alexander Henry Higginson, MFH Middlesex Hunt of South Lincoln, Massachusetts, noticed a letter to the editor by Harry Worcester Smith, MFH Grafton Hunt of Grafton, Massachusetts. Mr. Smith believed it was about time that the Westminster Kennel Club recognized the American foxhound as a breed, separate and distinct from the English foxhound. Higginson cried baloney: "There is no American foxhound today," he writes, and goes on to call the "so called" American foxhound "chance-bred" and "weedy." Smith cried halloo, there most certainly was too. In fact, Smith writes, the American hound, mainly bred in the South by the Walkers and Hitchcocks, was bred "not to look at but to kill foxes, which is the crowning point of all."

Higginson challenged: "Let Mr. Smith choose a judge, let me choose a judge, let the two name a third. Then let Mr. Smith go to any fair fox-hunting country in America with such hounds as he chooses—and I will bring such clean-bred hounds as I choose and my huntsman and whippers-in—and we'll hunt on alternate days for love, money, or marbles. Then if his hounds kill more foxes than mine or show better sport, I'll admit I'm wrong—but not until then."

Smith said Game On.

It happened at the turn of the century that took America, some may say, to her own crowning point of all. The Gilded Age was closing, the Progressives were in power. Teddy Roosevelt grabbed his big stick and rode to hounds out on Long Island. The Modernists were busy rejecting the Enlightenment along with any and all Realism. William Phelps Eno had only recently conceived of the STOP sign, writing to *Rider and Driver* in 1900, "Reforming our Street Traffic Urgently Needed." The Automobile



Thomas Higginson, Jr. and Martha Wolfe

was not yet ubiquitous.

The *Boston Herald* covered it, as did the *Evening Transcript*, *Washington Herald*, *Richmond Times Dispatch*, across the pond in the *London Times Mirror*, and locally in central Massachusetts papers, from whence came the competitors. Peter Winants, Alexander Mackay-Smith and others wrote about it in these pages in 1992, '96, 2001 and 2005. Of course *Rider and Driver* covered The Match and printed letters to its editors from both sides of the argument. The NSLM holds books by Jan Blau Van Urk, Allan Potts (who was also clerk of the Match), Carolyn Green, Kitty Slater, Alexander Mackay-Smith, Eugene M. Scheel, Frank Sherman Peer and Joseph B. Thomas, each of whom have written about The Match. Smith and Higginson, who later wrote a score of books between them, wrote about it in retrospect with the wisdom of hindsight. Higginson later admitted that he may have, "possibly somewhat foolishly" made the challenge.

It was a big deal, and still is. Even today if you listen closely to hound men and women, those purveyors of perfect pedigree, you'll hear them debating the merits of English vs. American hounds. Back then, for Harry Worcester Smith and others, The Match was a patriotic matter. In a letter to *Rider and Driver* Smith (everyone called him "Harry Worcester") added to the challenge, pledging not only his American hounds against the Brits, but his "American thoroughbred horses with saddles and bridles, the best that can be made in the United States of America; the livery made in American mills by American operatives from the tip of the boot to the velvet on the cap." (Smith held over thirty patents in the

cotton weaving industry.)

After two months in the stacks at the National Sporting Library & Museum, among the shelves of boxed personal papers and in the rare book room, I came away with a clear understanding of facts surrounding The Match as well as a picture of the time, the place and the personalities that brought it about. I found connections that at first seemed serendipitous, but later made perfect sense. As Allen Potts writes in *Foxhunting in America* (1911) "the greatest statesmen, soldiers and jurists of England and America" were "earnest fox hunters."

The Great Hound Match of 1905 will be published by Rowman and Littlefield's Derrydale Press, and is due out in 2015, the one hundred and tenth anniversary of The Match.

Martha Wolfe is an equestrian, foxhunter and writer from Frederick County, Virginia, whose work has been published in regional magazines and newspapers. She is a co-founder of the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum in Winchester, Virginia.

Exhibitions and Events

Exhibitions

September 28, 2013 – March 23, 2014
Angling in the Western World, Museum

October 12, 2013 – February 23, 2014
Contemporary Artist-Naturalists: Robin Hill and Meg Page, Museum

October 25, 2013 – January 30, 2014
Teaming with Nature: James Prosek, Library

March 8 – August 1, 2014
Side Saddle Exhibition, Library

March 15 – August 23, 2014
Foxcroft School: The Art of Women and the Sporting Life, Museum

April 11 – September 28, 2014
Clarice Smith Exhibition, Museum

Events

February 20, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Reception, Lecture, Book Signing
7:00 p.m. Lecture by Stephanie Grant Millham, *The Legacy of Master Nuno Oliveira*, Books available from www.xenophonpress.com

March 15, 2014
Side Saddle Symposium, Library

September 14, 2014
2014 Benefit Polo Match and Luncheon

For Want of a Bit, the Bridle Was Lost: An Archaeological Approach to Understanding Bridle Bits Through Time

by Tabitha Hilliard



Tabitha Hilliard

Over the last year I have blended my personal interest in equestrian sports and my professional interests in archaeology to develop a Master's thesis project which relies heavily upon primary documentary and archaeological research. The purpose of my thesis is to develop a chronology of bridle bits across the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This chronology is referred to as an "artifact serration." It is important to stress that the focus of the project is strictly bound to bridle bits that have survived archaeologically; I am not examining every variety that would have been available during my timeframe of interest.

I am developing a bridle bit serration because no such serration exists in the field. In addition, few archaeologists ever interpret horse hardware through an equestrian's lens. As a result, these objects are frequently misinterpreted - if they are interpreted at all. There is a growing interest in understanding horse hardware but many archaeologists lack the time or resources to cultivate this interest in addition to completing their other professional tasks. This project will address the problem of perception and interpretation, the significance of regional comparison and the need for additional serrations in the field.

Thanks to the collection at the National Sporting Library & Museum, I am able to include a variety of primary sources: William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle (1667), Sir William Hope (1717), and Jenyns C. Battersby (1886). It is worth noting that these three authors represent only a fraction of the works I consulted.

Archaeologists rely upon serrations to date sites and collections. It is my hope that my project will serve as a bridge between equestrian culture, early American history and archaeology. The information that has been second knowledge to equestrians for so long will now be immediately accessible to archaeologists and historians.

Tabitha Hilliard is a Virginia native and an equestrian completing a Master's degree in Anthropology at Monmouth University in Long Branch, New Jersey.

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The National Sporting Library & Museum wishes to recognize and thank the following Ivy Circle members whose donations are \$5,000 and above, and the Chairman's Council members whose donations are \$2,500 and above as of January 3, 2014. These contributions form the foundation of financial support for the NSLM's operations. We are grateful for gifts at all levels, and we thank our many donors and friends.

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